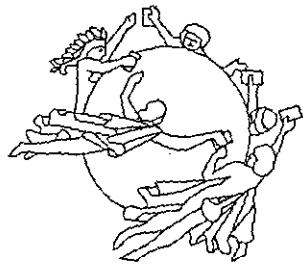


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Universal Postal Union

# Documents of the 1994 Seoul Congress

Volume III

Final text of the Acts signed at Seoul  
Decisions other than those amending the Acts

Berne 1995  
International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the Universal Postal Union as signed at Vienna in 1964 and amended by the 1969 Tokyo, 1974 Lausanne, 1984 Hamburg, 1989 Washington and 1994 Seoul Additional Protocols is reproduced in this volume for information purposes, but does not form part of the Acts signed at Seoul.

Table of abbreviations (acronyms, symbols, etc) and signs  
used in the Decisions of the 1994 Seoul Congress

**A. Common abbreviations, etc**

administration	postal administration
Agr	Agreement
art	article
c	centime
CA	Council of Administration
CCC	Customs Co-operation Council
CCPS	Consultative Council for Postal Studies
cm	centimetre
COD	Cash-on-Delivery Agreement
col	column
Constitution	Constitution of the Universal Postal Union
Conv or Convention	Universal Postal Convention
Det Regs or RE	Detailed Regulations
dm	decimetre
Doc	Documents (of Congress, Committees, etc)
EC	Executive Council
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EDI	Electronic data interchange
eg	for example
fr	franc
g	gramme
Gen Regs or General Regulations	General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union
Giro	Giro Agreement
h	hour
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBRS	International business reply service
id	idem
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
kg	kilogramme
km	kilometre
lb (16 ounces)	pound avoirdupois (453.59 grammes)
LDC	Least developed country
m	metre
max	maximum
min	minimum
mm	millimetre
mn	minute (of time)
Money Orders	Money Orders Agreement

Table of abbreviations and signs

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n.m.	nautical mile (1852 metres)
No	number
oz	ounce (28.3465 grammes) (16th part of a pound avoirdupois)
p	page
Parcels	Postal Parcels Agreement
POC	Postal Operations Council
Prot or Protocol	Final Protocol (to the Act concerned)
s	second (of time)
SDR	Special Drawing Right
t	tonne (1000 kilogrammes)
TCDC	Technical cooperation among developing countries
t-km	tonne-kilometre or kilometric tonne (unit used in connection with conveyance)
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UPU or Union	Universal Postal Union

**B. Abbreviations relating to forms**

(These abbreviations are always followed by the number of the form)

AV	Airmail correspondence (Washington 1989)
C	Convention (Washington 1989)
CN	Convention (Seoul 1994)
CP	Parcels
MP	Money orders
R	COD
VD	Insured letters
VP	Giro

# Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

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as amended by the 1969 Tokyo, 1974 Lausanne, 1984 Hamburg,  
1989 Washington and 1994 Seoul Additional Protocols

## Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

(as amended by the 1969 Tokyo, 1974 Lausanne, 1984 Hamburg,  
1989 Washington and 1994 Seoul Additional Protocols<sup>1</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> For the 1969 Tokyo Additional Protocol, see Documents of the Tokyo Congress, volume III, pp 5-8. For the second Additional Protocol (Lausanne 1974), see Documents of the Lausanne Congress, volume III, pp 23-25. For the third Additional Protocol (Hamburg 1984), see Documents of the Hamburg Congress, volume III, pp 25-28. For the fourth Additional Protocol (Washington 1989), see Documents of the Washington Congress, volume III/1, pp 27-32. For the fifth Additional Protocol (Séoul 1994), see pp 25-29 of this volume.

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## Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

(as amended by the 1969 Tokyo, 1974 Lausanne, 1984 Hamburg,  
1989 Washington and 1994 Seoul Additional Protocols)

### Preamble

With a view to developing communications between peoples by the efficient operation of the postal services, and to contributing to the attainment of the noble aims of international collaboration in the cultural, social and economic fields,

the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the contracting countries have, subject to ratification, adopted this Constitution.

### Section I

#### Organic provisions

##### Chapter I

###### General

###### Article 1

###### Scope and objectives of the Union

1 The countries adopting this Constitution shall comprise, under the title of the Universal Postal Union, a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letter-post items. Freedom of transit shall be guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.

2 The aim of the Union shall be to secure the organization and improvement of the postal services and to promote in this sphere the development of international collaboration.

3 The Union shall take part, as far as possible, in postal technical assistance sought by its member countries.

Article 2

Members of the Union

Member countries of the Union shall be:

- a countries which have membership status at the date on which the Constitution comes into force;
- b countries admitted to membership in accordance with article 11.

Article 3

Jurisdiction of the Union

The Union shall have within its jurisdiction:

- a the territories of member countries;
- b post offices set up by member countries in territories not included in the Union;
- c territories which, without being members of the Union, are included in it because from the postal point of view they are dependent on member countries.

Article 4

Exceptional relations

Postal administrations which provide a service with territories not included in the Union are bound to act as intermediaries for other administrations. The provisions of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations shall be applicable to such exceptional relations.

Article 5

Seat of the Union

The seat of the Union and of its permanent organs shall be at Berne.

Article 6

Official language of the Union

The official language of the Union shall be French.

Article 7<sup>1</sup>

Monetary unit

The monetary unit used in the Acts of the Union shall be the accounting unit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the 1989 Washington Congress.

#### Article 8

##### Restricted Unions. Special Agreements

1 Member countries, or their postal administrations if the legislation of those countries so permits, may establish Restricted Unions and make Special Agreements concerning the international postal service, provided always that they do not introduce provisions less favourable to the public than those provided for by the Acts to which the member countries concerned are parties.

2 Restricted Unions may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of the Union, to the **Council of Administration** and to the **Postal Operations Council**.<sup>1</sup>

3 The Union may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of Restricted Unions.

#### Article 9

##### Relations with the United Nations

The relations between the Union and the United Nations shall be governed by the Agreements whose texts are annexed to this Constitution.

#### Article 10

##### Relations with international organizations

In order to secure close cooperation in the international postal sphere, the Union may collaborate with international organizations having related interests and activities.

## Chapter II

### Accession or admission to the Union. Withdrawal from the Union

#### Article 11<sup>2</sup>

##### Accession or admission to the Union. Procedure

1 Any member of the United Nations may accede to the Union.

2 Any sovereign country which is not a member of the United Nations may apply for admission as a member country of the Union.

3 Accession or application for admission to the Union must entail a formal declaration of accession to the Constitution and to the *obligatory Acts of the Union*. It shall be addressed by the Government of the country concerned to the Director-General of the International Bureau, who shall notify the accession or consult the member countries on the application for admission, as the case may be.

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the 1969 Tokyo and 1994 Seoul Congresses.

<sup>2</sup> Amended by the 1969 Tokyo and 1989 Washington Congresses.

4 A country which is not a member of the United Nations shall be deemed to be admitted as a member country if its application is approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union. Member countries which have not replied within a period of four months shall be considered as having abstained.

5 Accession or admission to membership shall be notified by the Director-General of the International Bureau to the Governments of member countries. It shall take effect from the date of such notification.

Article 12<sup>1</sup>

Withdrawal from the Union. Procedure

1 Each member country may withdraw from the Union by notice of denunciation of the Constitution given by the Government of the country concerned to the Director-General of the International Bureau and by him to the Governments of member countries.

2 Withdrawal from the Union shall become effective one year after the day on which the notice of denunciation provided for in paragraph 1 is received by the Director-General of the International Bureau.

Chapter III

Organization of the Union

Article 13<sup>2</sup>

Bodies of the Union

1 The Union's bodies shall be Congress, the **Council of Administration**, the **Postal Operations Council** and the International Bureau.

2 The Union's permanent bodies shall be the **Council of Administration**, the **Postal Operations Council** and the International Bureau.

Article 14

Congress

1 Congress shall be the supreme body of the Union.

2 Congress shall consist of the representatives of member countries.

Article 15

Extraordinary Congresses

An Extraordinary Congress may be convened at the request or with the consent of at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union.

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the 1989 Washington Congress.

<sup>2</sup> Amended by the 1969 Tokyo, 1984 Hamburg and 1994 Seoul Congresses.

Article 16  
Administrative Conferences

(Deleted)<sup>1</sup>

Article 172  
**Council of Administration**

1 Between Congresses the **Council of Administration (CA)** shall ensure the continuity of the work of the Union in accordance with the provisions of the Acts of the Union.

2 Members of the **Council of Administration** shall carry out their functions in the name and in the interests of the Union.

Article 183  
**Postal Operations Council**

The **Postal Operations Council (POC)** shall be entrusted with **operational, commercial, technical** and economic questions concerning the postal service.

Article 19  
Special Committees

(Deleted)<sup>1</sup>

Article 204  
International Bureau

A central office operating at the seat of the Union under the title of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, directed by a Director-General and placed under the control of the **Council of Administration**, shall serve as an organ of **execution, support, liaison, information and consultation**.

<sup>1</sup> By the 1984 Hamburg Congress.

<sup>2</sup> Amended by the 1994 Seoul Congress.

<sup>3</sup> Amended by the 1969 Tokyo and 1994 Seoul Congresses.

<sup>4</sup> Amended by the 1984 Hamburg and 1994 Seoul Congresses.

## Chapter IV

### Finances of the Union

#### Article 21<sup>1</sup>

##### Expenditure of the Union. Contributions of member countries

- 1 Each Congress shall fix the maximum amount which:
  - a the expenditure of the Union may reach annually;
  - b the expenditure relating to the organization of the next Congress may reach.
- 2 The maximum amount for expenditure referred to in paragraph 1 may be exceeded if circumstances so require, provided that the relevant provisions of the General Regulations are observed.
- 3 The expenses of the Union, including where applicable the expenditure envisaged in paragraph 2, shall be jointly borne by the member countries of the Union. For this purpose, each member country shall choose the contribution class in which it intends to be included. The contribution classes shall be laid down in the General Regulations.
- 4 In the case of accession or admission to the Union under article 11, the country concerned shall freely choose the contribution class into which it wishes to be placed for the purpose of apportioning the expenses of the Union.

## Section II

### Acts of the Union

#### Chapter I

##### General

#### Article 22

##### Acts of the Union

- 1 The Constitution shall be the basic Act of the Union. It shall contain the organic rules of the Union.
- 2 The General Regulations shall embody those provisions which ensure the application of the Constitution and the working of the Union. They shall be binding on all member countries.
- 3 The Universal Postal Convention and its Detailed Regulations shall embody the rules applicable throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services. These Acts shall be binding on all member countries.

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the 1969 Tokyo, 1974 Lausanne and 1989 Washington Congresses.

4 The Agreements of the Union, and their Detailed Regulations, shall regulate the services other than those of the letter post between those member countries which are parties to them. They shall be binding on those countries only.

5 The Detailed Regulations, which shall contain the rules of application necessary for the implementation of the Convention and of the Agreements, shall be drawn up by the **Postal Operations Council**, bearing in mind the decisions taken by Congress.<sup>1</sup>

6 The Final Protocols annexed to the Acts of the Union referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 shall contain the reservations to those Acts.

#### Article 232

Application of the Acts of the Union to territories for whose international relations a member country is responsible

1 Any country may declare at any time that its acceptance of the Acts of the Union includes all the territories for whose international relations it is responsible, or certain of them only.

2 The declaration provided for in paragraph 1 must be addressed to the Director-General of the International Bureau.

3 Any member country may at any time address to the Director-General of the International Bureau a notification of its intention to denounce the application of those Acts of the Union in respect of which it has made the declaration provided for in paragraph 1. Such notification shall take effect one year after the date of its receipt by the Director-General of the International Bureau.

4 The declarations and notifications provided for in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be communicated to member countries by the Director-General of the International Bureau.

5 Paragraphs 1 to 4 shall not apply to territories having the status of a member of the Union and for whose international relations a member country is responsible.

#### Article 24

National legislation

The provisions of the Acts of the Union shall not derogate from the legislation of any member country in respect of anything which is not expressly provided for by those Acts.

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the 1989 Washington and 1994 Seoul Congresses.

<sup>2</sup> Amended by the 1989 Washington Congress.

## Chapter II

### Acceptance and denunciation of the Acts of the Union

#### Article 25<sup>1</sup>

Signature, authentication, ratification and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

1 The Acts of the Union arising from the Congress shall be signed by the plenipotentiaries of the member countries.

2 The Detailed Regulations shall be authenticated by the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the **Postal Operations Council**.

3 The Constitution shall be ratified as soon as possible by the signatory countries.

4 Approval of the Acts of the Union other than the Constitution shall be governed by the constitutional regulations of each signatory country.

5 When a country does not ratify the Constitution or does not approve the other Acts which it has signed, the Constitution and other Acts shall be no less valid for the other countries that have ratified or approved them.

#### Article 26<sup>2</sup>

Notification of ratifications and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

The instruments of ratification of the Constitution and the Additional Protocols thereto and, where appropriate, of approval of the other Acts of the Union shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Director-General of the International Bureau who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

#### Article 27

Accession to the Agreements

1 Member countries may, at any time, accede to one or more of the Agreements provided for in article 22, paragraph 4.

2 Accession of member countries to the Agreements shall be notified in accordance with article 11, paragraph 3.

#### Article 28

Denunciation of an Agreement

Each member country may cease being a party to one or more of the Agreements, under the conditions laid down in article 12.

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the 1989 Washington and 1994 Seoul Congresses.

<sup>2</sup> Amended by the 1969 Tokyo and 1989 Washington Congresses.

## Chapter III

### Amendment of the Acts of the Union

#### Article 29

##### Presentation of proposals

1 The postal administration of a member country shall have the right to present, either to Congress or between Congresses, proposals concerning the Acts of the Union to which its country is a party.

2 However, proposals concerning the Constitution and the General Regulations may be submitted only to Congress.

#### Article 30

##### Amendment of the Constitution

1 To be adopted, proposals submitted to Congress and relating to this Constitution must be approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union.

2 Amendments adopted by a Congress shall form the subject of an additional protocol and, unless that Congress decides otherwise, shall enter into force at the same time as the Acts renewed in the course of the same Congress. They shall be ratified as soon as possible by member countries and the instruments of such ratification shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 26.

#### Article 31<sup>1</sup>

##### Amendment of the General Regulations, the Convention and the Agreements

1 The General Regulations, the Convention and the Agreements shall define the conditions to be fulfilled for the approval of proposals which concern them.

2 The Acts referred to in paragraph 1 shall enter into force simultaneously and shall have the same duration. As from the day fixed by Congress for the entry into force of these Acts, the corresponding Acts of the preceding Congress shall be abrogated.

## Chapter IV

### Settlement of disputes

#### Article 32

##### Arbitration

In the event of a dispute between two or more postal administrations of member countries concerning the interpretation of the Acts of the Union or the responsibility imposed on a postal administration by the application of those Acts, the question at issue shall be settled by arbitration.

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the 1984 Hamburg Congress.

### Section III

#### Final provisions

##### Article 33

###### Coming into operation and duration of the Constitution

This Constitution shall come into operation on 1 January 1966 and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

In witness whereof, the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the contracting countries have signed this Constitution in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the country in which the seat of the Union is situated. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

Done at Vienna, 10 July 1964.